

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 1-hour Ozone in Calcasieu Parish

Prior to the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, the EPA identified and designated nonattainment areas with respect to the NAAQS. For such areas, States submitted SIPs to control emissions and achieve attainment of the NAAQS. Calcasieu Parish was originally designated as nonattainment for ozone on September 11, 1978. The SIP for this area was first adopted in the early 1980's.

On November 15, 1990, the CAAA were enacted (Public Law 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q). Calcasieu Parish was classified as a "marginal" ozone nonattainment area pursuant to sections 107(d) and 181(a) of the CAAA (56 FR 56694) with an attainment date of November 15, 1993. The ozone nonattainment designation for Calcasieu Parish continued by operation of law according to section 107(d)(1)(C)(i) of the CAA, as amended in 1990 (See 56 FR 56694, November 6, 1991). Since the State had not yet collected in Calcasieu Parish the required three (3) years of ambient ozone air quality monitoring data necessary to petition for redesignation to attainment, the area continued its designation as a marginal ozone nonattainment area. Due to technical problems with the Vinton monitoring site in 1993, EPA deferred making an attainment determination for Calcasieu Parish until the monitoring issue was resolved.

In order to demonstrate attainment with the 1-hour ozone NAAQS, the state collected the required ambient monitoring data in Calcasieu Parish that showed no violations of the 0.12 ppm 1-hour ozone standard; developed an ozone maintenance plan for the area in accordance with section 175A of the CAAA; and on December 20, 1995, submitted to EPA for approval a request for redesignation to attainment and the ozone maintenance plan. The request was accompanied by ambient air monitoring data that showed no violations of the NAAQS standard of 0.12 parts per million (ppm) for a period of three years.

On May 2, 1997, EPA published a final rulemaking approving a revision to the Louisiana SIP to redesignate Calcasieu Parish to attainment for ozone (62 FR 24036). EPA determined that the redesignation request and maintenance plan met the requirements for redesignation in section 107 (d)(3)(E) of the CAAA. The EPA also determined that the redesignation met the requirements of section 182 (a)(1) of the CAAA as a revision to the Louisiana ozone SIP for Calcasieu Parish. The redesignation of Calcasieu Parish to attainment for ozone was effective June 2, 1997.

In July 1997, EPA revised the air quality standards for ozone replacing the 1979 one-hour standard with an 8-hour standard set at 0.08 ppm. The standard was challenged by a number of plaintiffs. The EPA reinstated the 1-hour standard effective October 18, 2000 (65 FR 45181).

Calcasieu Parish experienced 6 ozone exceedance days during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000. Four or more exceedances during any consecutive three-year period constitute violation of the ozone NAAQS. This violation triggered the contingency measures in the approved ozone maintenance plan for the area. Certain provisions of the VOC emission control regulations contained in LAC 33:III.Chapter 21 were revised to become more stringent. Calcasieu Parish has remained in attainment with the 1-hour standard for the ozone seasons of 2002 through 2005. The 1-hour ozone standard was most recently revoked effective June 15, 2005.

1.1.2 8-hour Ozone in Calcasieu Parish

On April 15, 2004, the EPA designated and classified areas for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS (69 FR 23858, April 30, 2004). Calcasieu Parish was designated attainment with an effective date of June 15, 2004

1.2 Geographic Location/Parish Description

Calcasieu Parish is located in southwest Louisiana and has a total area of 1071 square miles. The parish seat is the city of Lake Charles. Calcasieu Parish has a population of approximately 183,577 as of the 2000 Census.² Calcasieu Parish is bordered by the state of Texas to the west, Jefferson Davis Parish to the east, Beauregard Parish to the north and Cameron Parish to the south. See Figure 1.

Calcasieu Parish's industrial base is related to the petrochemical industries common in Louisiana. The parish also supports a large agricultural community primarily in rice and beef production. At present, the Port of Lake Charles is accessible to ocean-going vessels and is 34 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, making it the closest of the three deep water ports in Louisiana.

² Source: United States Census Bureau

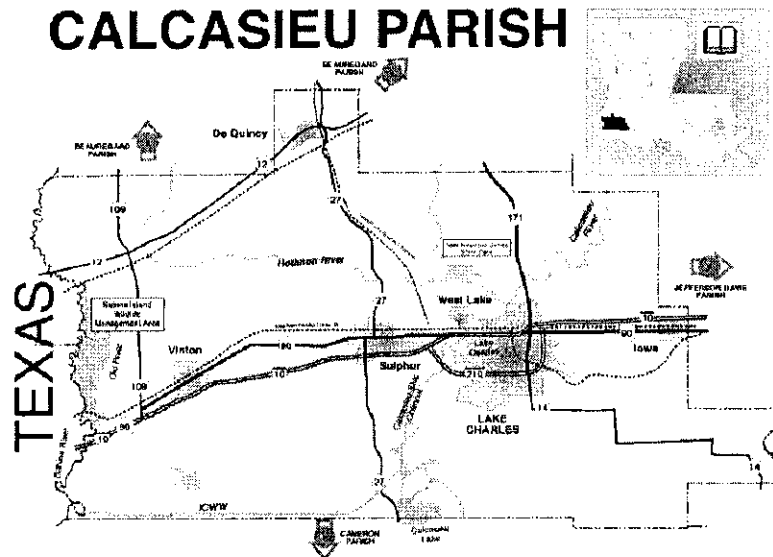


Figure 1: State Map Illustrating Calcasieu Parish

1.3 Public Notice

In accordance with La. R.S. 49:950 et seq., and to comply with 40 CFR 51.285 Public Notification, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality published a notice seeking comment on this SIP revision on March 20, 2007 in the *Louisiana Register*. A public hearing concerning this proposed SIP revision was held at 1:30pm on April 25, 2007 in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Room C-111, at 602 N. Fifth Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The comment period closed on May 2, 2007. A copy of the public notice, hearing transcript, comments and comment summary are included in Appendix C.